

Manisha Juthani, MD Commissioner



Ned Lamont Governor Susan Bysiewicz Lt. Governor

ORDER

Whereas, on March 10, 2020, Governor Ned Lamont (the Governor), in response to the global pandemic of 2019 Coronavirus disease (COVID-19), declared a public health and civil preparedness emergency throughout the State of Connecticut pursuant to Sections 19a-131a and 28-9 of the Connecticut General Statutes, to remain in effect through September 9, 2020, unless sooner terminated by the Governor; and

Whereas, on several occasions since March 10, 2020, acting within his authority pursuant to Sections 19a-131a and 28-9 of the Connecticut General Statutes as well as Special Acts 21-2, 21-4, and 21-5 of the General Assembly, and in response to the continued need to respond adequately to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Governor renewed the declarations of public health and civil preparedness emergencies and also issued new declarations of public health and civil preparedness emergencies; and

Whereas, pursuant to Section 19a-131(j) of the General Statutes, the Commissioner of Public Health may issue an order to temporarily suspend, for a period not to exceed sixty (60) consecutive days, the requirements for licensure, certification or registration, required under specified statutory laws to render temporary assistance within the scope of the profession for which a person is licensed, certified or registered, in managing a public health emergency in this state, declared by the Governor pursuant to section 19a-131a; and

Whereas, the COVID-19 pandemic remains a grave threat to public health and safety and civil preparedness in the State of Connecticut; and

Whereas, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, there is a significant need for the expansion of the healthcare workforce in Connecticut; and

Whereas, pursuant to Section 19a-131j(a) of the Connecticut General Statutes, on December 22, 2021, I issued a temporary suspension for a period of sixty (60) consecutive days or until February 15, 2022, if the public health emergency is not extended, of the requirements for licensure, certification or registration, pursuant to 370 (Medicine and Surgery), 378 (Nursing), 383 (Psychologists), 383a (Marital and Family Therapists), 383b (Clinical Social Workers and Master Social Workers), and 383c (Professional Counselors), to allow persons who are appropriately licensed, certified or registered in another state or territory of the United States or the District of Columbia, to render temporary assistance in Connecticut within the scope of the profession for which a provider is licensed, certified or registered; and

Whereas, the highly transmissible omicron variant has caused COVID-19 infections to rapidly increase within the United States and Connecticut creating a substantial need for additional respiratory care practitioners as defined in section 20-162n of the Connecticut General Statutes and



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Now, therefore, based on concerns relative to COVID-19, and pursuant to Section 19a-131j(a) of the Connecticut General Statutes, unless sooner terminated by me or unless the Governor sooner repeals or modifies the declared emergencies, I hereby order, effective immediately, the temporary suspension for a period of sixty (60) consecutive days or until February 15, 2022, if the public health emergency is not extended, of the requirements for licensure pursuant to chapter 381a (Respiratory care practitioner) to allow persons who are appropriately licensed, certified or registered in another state or territory of the United States or the District of Columbia, to render temporary assistance in Connecticut within the scope of the profession for which a provider is licensed, certified or registered; provided that:

- 1. Nothing herein shall be construed to permit such provider to provide services beyond the scope allowed in the chapter of the Connecticut General Statutes specified that pertains to such provider's profession;
- 2. The license or certification of such provider has not been suspended or restricted by any licensing authority, surrendered while under suspension, discipline or investigation by a licensing authority or surrendered following an arrest, and the individual is not on the List of Excluded Individuals/Entities maintained by the Office of Inspector General of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services;
- 3. The temporary suspension of licensure provided herein shall not apply to the provisions governing temporary permits in section 20-162o(c) of the Connecticut General Statutes.
- 4. Any Connecticut entity, institution or health care provider which engages or contracts with any such out-of-state provider shall be required to verify the credentials of such provider in the state in which he or she is licensed, certified or registered, ensure that such provider is in good standing in such state, and confirm the required insurance coverage.
- 5. Any such provider who is providing services through the use of telehealth as defined in Public Act 21-9 shall comply with all requirements for the provision of such services set forth in said Act.

Ordered this 10th day of January 2022

Manisha Juthani, MD

Commissioner